

LYNN WOOLSEY
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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Congress of the United States
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April 24, 2008

A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Kawamura:

I am writing you to request a moratorium on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) proposed aerial spraying this summer of pesticide for the light brown apple moth (LBAM). I am concerned that aerial spraying is proposed while we lack sufficient information on the pesticides ingredients, its health effects, its effectiveness on LBAM populations, and even if the moth poses a real danger to crops and landscape.

While it may be unlikely that pheromone in Checkmate, the proposed pesticide, poses any health risks, it is not clear what other ingredients are present, and what will be the long term health effects on people being exposed to repeated applications.

CDFA has a goal of eradicating LBAM in the state, a goal that has never before been reached using a pheromone. It would be of tremendous concern if the California Department of Food and Agriculture were caught in a vicious cycle of repeated aerial sprayings every 30-90 days with no end in sight. Outside of potential physical health effects, repeated aerial spraying would be a huge source of anxiety for local residents, and no doubt have a negative economic effect on tourism and real estate values.

Because information about LBAM's potential threat to crops is limited, it is not clear whether an intrusive eradication method like aerial spraying is justified. I support Rep. Sam Farr's request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide a complete explanation of why USDA has classified LBAM as a dangerous pest, a listing that brings with it a threat of quarantine, so we are certain we must take measures to protect against LBAM.

I ask that you suspend aerial spraying and instead implement an aggressive program of on-ground control using pheromone twist ties, as proposed by Stacy Carlsen, Marin

County's Agricultural Commissioner. At the same time, CDFA should provide the public with complete disclosure on health issues, thoroughly evaluate the threat of LBAM, and decide on a program that ensures public health, and protects both our environment and agricultural economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lynn Woolsey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary Ed Schafer, USDA
Marin Board of Supervisors
Rep. Sam Farr